



1 Surjit P. Soni (State Bar No. 127419)
2 M. Danton Richardson (State Bar No. 141709)
3 Leo E. Lundberg, Jr. (State Bar No. 125951)
4 Ouray Sutton (State Bar No. 120255)
5 THE SONI LAW FIRM
55 South Lake Ave., Suite 720
Pasadena, California 91101
(626) 683-7600 Telephone
(626) 683-1199 Fax

6 Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Complainants,
7 The Milton H. Greene Archives, Inc., and
Tom Kelley Studios, Inc.

8 Lydia Bouzaglou-Newcomb, SBN 134241
LAW OFFICES OF LYDIA BOUZAGLOU-NEWCOMB
9 5000 East Spring Street, Suite 600
Long Beach, California 90815
10 Tel: (562) 420-4000; Facsimile: (800) 495-4019

11 R. Lawrence Bragg, State Bar No.: 119194
LAW OFFICES OF DONALD J. DeSHAW
12 2730 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 210
Sacramento, California 95833
13 Tel: (916) 923-9505; Facsimile (888) 813-3351

14 John P. Cogger (State Bar No. 172808)
LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE P. AUSTIN
15 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 802
San Diego, California 92108
16 Tel: (619) 209-4000; Facsimile: (866) 724-0742

17 Attorneys for Defendant
18 THE MILTON H. GREENE ARCHIVES, INC.

19 Robin A. Webb, SBN 160494
Email: raw@ggb-law.com
GRANT, GENOVESE ET AL
20 2030 Main Street, #1600
Irvine, California 92614
21 Telephone: (949) 660-1600
Facsimile: (949) 660-6060

22 Attorneys for Defendant,
23 TOM KELLEY STUDIOS, INC.

24
25 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
26 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

27 THE MILTON H. GREENE ARCHIVES,) CASE NO.: CV05-2200-MMM(MCx)
28 INC.,) [CONSOLIDATED ACTION]

Plaintiff,

1 VS.

2 CMG WORLDWIDE, INC., an Indiana
3 Corporation, and MARILYN MONROE,
4 LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability
5 Company, ANNA STRASBERG, an
individual,

6 Defendants.

7 And Consolidated Actions

8 } SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY IN
9 } SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
10 } SUMMARY JUDGMENT FILED
11 } PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER12 } Date: UNDER SUBMISSION
13 } Time: TBA14 } Place: Courtroom of the Honorable
15 } Margaret M. Morrow16 } [[Proposed] Order Lodged Concurrently
17 } Herewith]

2939-CM Document 90-2 Filed 01/17/2007
3 Bally Studios, Inc. ("Defendants") hereby submit their supplemental reply in
4 support of their Motion for Summary Judgment pursuant to this Court's December
5 11, 2006 Tentative Order.6 I. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT
78 Plaintiffs¹ have chosen to ignore the Court's directive to address the single
9 issue the Court framed, namely:10 Whether Marilyn Monroe could transfer through her will a posthumous
11 right of publicity which she did not own at the time of her death?12 Instead, they launch into a re-argument of their statutory construction of
13 Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 and the effectiveness of the residuary clause to transfer "after-
14 acquired" property, not the question of Marilyn Monroe's capacity to transfer assets
15 she did not own at death.²16 The proper response to the Court's permitted briefing necessarily begins with a
17 construction of Ms. Monroe's will. If Ms. Monroe's will reflects an intent to
18 bequeath only what she owned *at the time of her death*, the inquiry is complete since
19 she did not own any post-mortem RoP at her death.20 A secondary inquiry would analyze the laws of New York or California, the
21 only two (2) states where she was possibly domiciled at the time of her death, to22
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¹ "Plaintiffs" refers to Marilyn Monroe, LLC ("MMLLC") and CMG Worldwide, Inc.

² Plaintiffs try to introduce 17 new exhibits they failed to produce in response to Defendants' Requests for Production of Documents. The new evidence does not bear on the Court's question and is largely inadmissible and incompetent to establish Plaintiffs' ownership of in Marilyn Monroe's right of publicity ("RoP"). See Objections to the Newly Submitted Evidence, submitted herewith. The Court did not authorize submission of new evidence; all evidence in opposition was required to have been filed by the date Plaintiffs' opposition was due. *Ashton-Tate Corp. v. Ross*, 916 F.2d 516, 519-520 (9th Cir. 1990). The Court should not consider any of this new untimely evidence.

4 Only if Ms. Monroe died a domiciliary of California and California permits
5 testamentary dispositions of assets not owned at time of death, would a construction
6 of Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 be necessary. The Court must determine whether the
7 statute has retroactive effect to vest, in persons long dead, a capacity to convey
8 property not owned, known, anticipated or expected by them at the time of their
9 death. If Ms. Monroe was domiciled in New York when she died, Cal.Civ.Code
10 §3344.1 is irrelevant. California does not extend post-mortem RoP to persons whose
11 domiciliary state at time of death, such as New York, does not extend such rights.

12 *Lord Simon Cairns v. Franklin Mint Co.*, 292 F.3d 1139 (9th Cir. 2002).

13 As shown more fully hereafter, summary judgment should be granted to
14 Defendants because Marilyn Monroe's will disposes only of property she owned "at
15 the time of death." Moreover, Marilyn Monroe, could not have conveyed by will,
16 under New York or California law, rights she did not own.³ After-acquired property
17 provisions of California and New York law address only property acquired after the
18 making of the will and owned at death, not after death of the testator.⁴ Summary

19
20 ³ It is undisputed that the laws of New York, Indiana or California did not
21 extend a RoP to deceased persons in 1962, when Ms. Monroe died, and New York
22 does not to this day. *Frosh, supra; Lugosi v. Universal Pictures*, 25 Cal.3d 813, 160
23 Cal.Rptr. 323, 603 P.2d 425, 10 A.L.R.4th 1150(1979). California Civil Code section
3344.1 was not in effect at the time of Ms. Monroe's death, having first been enacted
in 1984. Indiana law Section 32-36-1 was enacted in 1994.

24
25 * Indiana, New York and California look to the domicile of a person to
26 determine what property rights exist. The evidence of record overwhelmingly
27 establishes that Ms. Monroe remained domiciled in New York at the time of her
28 death. Whether a RoP survived her passing must be decided applying New York law.
New York has the most significant interest in the determination, Ms. Monroe having
lived there, paid taxes there and having passed her probate through its courts.

4 Finally, even if Ms. Monroe was a California domiciliary at the time of her
5 death, Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 has no retroactive effect, does not vest any rights in
6 estates of deceased persons, and did not change well-established rules of probate law
7 which do not allow decedents to transfer property in which they had no expectancy at
8 the time of their death.⁶ Consequently, Plaintiffs could not have received any post-
9 mortem RoP by a transfer effective 22 years before the rights came into existence.

10

11 ⁵ Plaintiffs have produced no evidence of any change in Ms. Monroe's intended
12 domicile. In addition to Plaintiffs' judicial admissions that have been shown,
13 Defendants have produced statements by Ms. Monroe which reflect her intent to
14 make New York her permanent home, including through retirement. The locus of
15 Ms. Monroe's life remained in New York until the time she died. It is uncontested
16 that Ms. Monroe paid state taxes in New York and in California as a non-resident,
17 and that her lawyer, trustee and executor of the estate, accountant, checking accounts,
18 business, acting coach and beneficiary of the residuary clause were all in New York.

19

20 ⁶ Plaintiffs also improperly seek to have the Indiana RoP law have retroactive
21 effect, when no such provision was included in the statute. Plaintiffs construction of
22 the Indiana statute would interfere with the dormant Copyright clause, the Commerce
23 clause, the right to contract and effect an unlawful taking form persons who enjoyed
24 free right to use the indicia of Ms. Monroe's persona which was unprotected for 32
25 years before implementation of Indiana's statute.

26 Plaintiffs rely upon the unpublished interlocutory trial court decision in *Scalf v.*
27 *Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.*, Cause No. 45D10-0406-PI-00093
28 (Lake County Superior Ct. Indiana, filed Jan. 9, 2005) as authority for the proposition
(Lake County Superior Ct. Indiana, filed Jan. 9, 2005) as authority for the proposition
that the Indiana RoP statute should be applied retroactively. (See Opposition at 6, n.4)
despite conceding that "it is an interlocutory order and therefore not binding authority
here." *Id.* Under Indiana law, a conclusion of law by a Circuit Court from which no
appeal was taken is not binding precedent and it is improper for counsel to cite to
such authority. *Harford Accident & Indemnity Co. v. Dana Corp.*, 690 N.E.2d 285,
294 n.10. Moreover, *Scalf v. Lake County* does not cite or discuss the rule against
retroactive applications of statutes in Indiana or attempt to distinguish *Chestnut*,
supra. *Scalf* should not be considered.

1 Plaintiffs therefore have no standing to assert any such claims.⁷ Just as clearly as
2 there was no RoP in 1962 for Ms. Monroe to convey, Ms. Monroe was not alive in
3 1985 to receive any right of alienation under the consent provisions created by
4 Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1.

5 To survive summary judgment Plaintiffs must show that: (1) Ms. Monroe
6 intended to covey by will all property she owned, including after-acquired property
7 rather than just property she owned at death; (2) the laws of her domicile state at
8 death (New York or California) permit disposition by will of property a testator may
9 be entitled to after death; (3) Ms. Monroe was a domicile of California when she died;
10 (4) Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 retroactively granted Ms. Monroe a RoP and the right to
11 transfer it by will; (5) Ms. Monroe's will did in fact legally convey an unforseeable
12 future interest to residuary beneficiaries; (6) the residuary beneficiaries have lawfully
13 transferred the RoP they received to Plaintiffs. As shown herein, Plaintiffs fail to
14 meet this burden.

16 II. MS. MONROE'S WILL REFLECTS AN INTENT TO BEQUEATH 17 ONLY WHAT SHE OWNED AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH

18 The relevant provision of Ms. Monroe's will provided:

19 SIXTH. All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and
20 personal, of whatever nature and wheresoever situate, *of which I shall*
die seized or possessed or to which I shall in any way be entitled, or
over which I shall possess any power of appointment by will at the time
21 *of my death*, including any lapsed legacies, I give, devise and bequeath
as follows:....

22 Plaintiffs improperly construe the "*to which I shall in any way be entitled*"
23 phrase of the "*of which I shall die seized or possessed or to which I shall in any way*
24 *be entitled*" clause, as not being limited by the "*of which I shall die*" limitation
25 within that clause. Plaintiffs' argument depends on this construction because they

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27
28 ⁷ Plaintiffs' claims also fail because they have not established a chain of title
vesting any rights, which may exist, in Plaintiffs.

4 First, the entire clause must construed together and every part of it, including
5 its punctuation must be given effect.⁸ The "*to which I shall in any way be entitled*"
6 phrase must be read together with the "*of which I shall die seized or possessed or*"
7 phrase because there is no comma between them. The phrase "*to which I shall in any*
8 *way be*" is clearly an adverb to the term "*entitled*" since it is merely prepositional to
9 "*entitled*." Eliminating adverbs, the residuary clause conveys only all property "*of*
10 *which I [Marilyn Monroe] shall die seized or possessed or ...entitled*."

11 Consequently, the property which Ms. Monroe sought to transfer by the residuary
12 clause is that "*of which I shall die entitled*" at the time of her death.⁹

13 * *The People ex Rel. Casey Gwinn*, 83 Cal.App.4th 759 (2000) ("Commas are
14 used to separate items in a list. (Random House, Dict. of the English Usage,
15 Unabridged Ed. (1966) p. 295.) Their presence or absence in a statute is a factor to be
16 considered in its interpretation." citing *Board of Trustees v. Judge*, 50 Cal.App.3d
17 920, 928, fn. 4 (1975); see also *Duncanson-Harrelson Co. v. Travelers Indemnity*
18 *Co.*, 209 Cal.App.2d 62, 66 (1962).)

19 * In this case the qualifying limitation "*of which I shall die*" applies to and
20 modifies all following verbs, *seized, possessed and entitled* because the modifier and
21 the verbs it modifies are set apart from the rest of the residuary clause by commas.
22 See *Board of Trustees v. Judge*, *supra*; *Wholesale Tobacco Dealers Bureau, etc. v.*
23 *National etc. Co.*, 11 Cal.2d 634, 659 (1938), 82 P.2d 3. ("When several words are
24 followed by a clause which is applicable as much to the first and other words as to the
25 last, the natural construction of the language demands that the clause be read as
26 applicable to all."); 2A Singer, *Sutherland Statutes and Statutory Construction* (6th
ed. 2000) Intrinsic Aids § 47.33, p. 373); *U.S. v. Mottolo*, 605 F.Supp. 898 (D.C.N.H.
1985) ("The Court reads the two "claims" and "damages" phrases as independent
clauses which are separated by the conjunctive "nor", set off by commas, and
modified by the limiting, dependent clause "more than three years...." Thus, the first
portion of § 9612(d) should be read as follows:

27 (d) No claim may be presented, nor may an action be commenced for
28 damages under this title, unless that claim is presented or action

Second, the doctrines of *Noscitur a sociis* (literally, “it is known from its associates”) and *ejusdem generis* (literally, “of the same kind”) provide rules for construction to provisions with listed words and phrases. *Noscitur a sociis* means that a word may be defined by its accompanying words and phrases, since “ordinarily the coupling of words denotes an intention that they should be understood in the same general sense.” (2A Sutherland, Statutory Construction (6th ed.2000) § 47.16, pp. 268-269, fn. omitted.) *Eiusdem generis* means that where general words follow specific words, or specific words follow general words in an enumeration, the general words are construed to embrace only things similar in nature to those enumerated by the specific words. *Harris v. Capital Growth Investors XIV*, 52 Cal.3d 1142, 1160 & fn. 7(1991); *Engelmann v. State Bd. of Education*, 2 Cal.App.4th 47, 57, fn. 11(1991). A court should determine the meaning of each by reference to the others, giving preference to an interpretation that uniformly treats items similar in nature and scope.¹⁰

commenced within three years from the date of the discovery of the loss or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later.... [Stops emphasized.]

The phrase “for damages” is contained wholly within the second independent clause and therefore modifies only its direct antecedent within the independent clause, the phrase “an action”.)

¹⁰ *Kelly v. Methodist Hospital of So. California*, 22 Cal.4th 1108, 1121(2000); *In the Matter of the Estate Nielsen, Dunn v. Nielsen*, 204 Cal.App.2d 357 (1962)(citing *Estate of Marin*, 69 Cal.App.2d 147, 150-151. “In referring to the use of the expression, personal property, in a will it is stated in 3 Page on Wills 3rd Ed.1941, sec. 964, p. 45: ‘A gift of personal property in general terms together with an enumeration of certain classes of personal property is generally held to be limited to articles of the classes which are enumerated specifically.’”); *In re Welsh’s Estate*, 89 Cal.App.2d 43(1949)(“Under the maxim ‘*ejusdem generis*’ the whole of the following portions of the paragraph, not specifically pointed to something else, would refer back to the burdens to be lifted from the bequest of paragraph Nine. Especially is this true because the paragraph (Ten) is all in one sentence. *Gist v. Craig*, 142 S.C. 407; *Noble v. Kisker*, 134 Fla. 233.”)

1 Applying these rules of construction, the residuary clause of Ms. Monroe's will
2 must be read to limit the property "*to which I shall in any way be entitled*" to such
3 property as she died entitled. This is also consistent with the next clause conveying
4 property over which she had a power of appointment "*at the time of [her] death.*"

5 Third, in construing the intent of a testator one must look to the entire
6 document. Nothing in Ms. Monroe's will indicates any intent to convey any property
7 she did not own at death. To the contrary, apart from the specific bequeaths in
8 clauses Fourth and Fifth, the only clause which addresses disposition of property is
9 the Sixth clause, the residuary clause. In that clause, Ms. Monroe repeatedly uses
10 possessive terms such as "*my* estate," "*of which I shall die seized or possessed or ...*
11 *entitled*," and "*over which I possess* any power of appointment *by will at the time of*
12 *my death.*" These terms establish her intent to transfer by will only that which she
13 owned at time of her death.¹¹ "[A] will ordinarily speaks from the time of the death of
14 the testator." 40 Cyc. 1424; *Voorhis v. Otterson*, 66 N. J. Eq., 172, 57 A. 428.

15 There is no reference or suggestion that she sought to include any future
16 interest or expectancy which would not mature into either actual ownership, seizure,
17 possession, entitlement or a power of appointment by the time of her death.¹² Since

18
19 ¹¹ Ca. Probate Code § 6101 identifies Property which may be disposed of by
20 will and limits such dispositions to property actually owned by the testator:

21 A will may dispose of the following property:

22 (a) The testator's separate property; (b) The one-half of the community
23 property that belongs to the testator under Section 100; (c) The one-half
24 of the testator's quasi-community property that belongs to the testator
25 under Section 101.

26 ¹² The testator must clearly intend to make a devise specific. *In re Loescher's*
27 *Estate*, 133 Cal. App. 2d 589(4th Dist. 1955) Words specifically identifying the
28 property and indicative of possession are necessary in the making of a specific devise. *In re Jones' Estate*, 60 Cal. App. 2d 795(1st Dist. 1943). The words "my," "in my
name," or similar qualifying words indicate an intention to make a specific devise. *Id.*
Marilyn Monroe could not have intended to make a bequest of a right she did not own

1 the asserted RoP did not exist until long after her death, and as is shown hereafter was
2 never granted her. Ms. Monroe never had any expectancy, let alone any future
3 interest, in them. Property acquired by a testator's estate after her death may not
4 pass under the residuary clause of the will. 80 AM.JUR.2d WILLS §1168; 96 C.J.S.
5 WILLS §1088. Marilyn Monroe lacked the legal capacity to convey what she did not
6 own, did not foresee or expect to own.

7 Fourth, "[t]estamentary disposition...is controlled by the law in effect as of the
8 date of death." *Dept. Of Health Services v Fontes*, 169 Cal.App.3d 301, 305 (1985).

9 Prior to repeal, former Cal. Probate Code § 126, provided:

10 Except as provided by Sections 1386.1 and 1386.2 of the Civil Code
11 relating to powers of appointment, a devise of the residue of the testator's
12 real property, or a **bequest of the residue of the testator's personal**
13 **property, passes all of the real or personal property**, as the case may be,
14 **which he was entitled to devise or bequeath at the time of his death**, not
15 otherwise effectually devised or bequeathed by his will. [Emphasis
16 added]

17 As held in *In re Smith*, 14 Misc.2d 205 (1958), 177 N.Y.S.2d 280, where this testator
18 declared his intent "to dispose of all property, which I am entitled to dispose of by
19 will," as did Ms. Monroe, the will could not include the piece of real property the
20 testator did not yet own at the time of the drafting of the will.

21 Fifth, in will constructions, it is presumed the deceased knew as a matter of law
22 that he had no power to dispose of property he did not own and over which he had no
23 power of disposition. *In re Resler's Estate*, 43 Cal.2d 726, 732-733(1955). As
24 explained in *In re Estate of Moore*, 62 Cal.App. 265:

25 The last sentence of the third paragraph of the will recites 'It is my
26 intention to dispose of all property over which I have the power of
27 testamentary disposition.' When read in the light of the constructional

28 and did not even have any expectancy of owning at the time of her death.

29 ¹³ A future estate is created when the disposition creating it becomes legally
30 effective. See N.Y. EPTL 7-1.14 through 7-1.18. Upon death, any mere expectancy or
31 inchoate interest ceases and is terminated. *McKay v. Laurinson*, 204 Cal. 557, 569-70
32 (1928).

preference stated in the *Moore* case, this sentence supports the conclusion that the testator did not intend to dispose of any property over which he did not have the power of testamentary disposition. Where the testator does, however, speak in general terms, that is, "all of my property," or "all of my estate," he will be presumed to have intended to dispose of only that interest which was subject to his power of testamentary disposition. *In re Wolfe's Estate*, 48 Cal.2d 570 (1957).

In her residuary clause, Ms. Monroe used the terms "all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate" "of which I shall be seized, possessed or...entitled" and "over which I shall possess any power of appointment at the time of my death." She intended thereby to transfer all which she had power to transfer at the time of her death, and no more.

Cal. Prob. Code § 21117 titled "At Death Transfers," subsection (f) defines a residuary gift as "a transfer of property that remains after all specific and general gifts have been satisfied." Any RoP created in 1985 could not have "remained" "after all specific and general gifts have been satisfied" in 1962. "An estate must be distributed among heirs and distributees according to the law as it exists at the time of death of the decedent." *Ware v. Beach*, 322 P.2d 635, 639 (Okla. 1958).¹⁴

In sum, Ms. Monroe's will conveyed only property she owned at death.

III. MS. MONROE DID NOT HAVE THE LEGAL CAPACITY TO BEQUEATH PROPERTY SHE DID NOT OWN AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH UNDER THE LAWS OF NEW YORK OR CALIFORNIA

Cal. Civ. Code §671 defines the "Capacity to Own" as:

Any person, whether citizen or alien, may take, hold, and dispose of property, real or personal within this state.

A deceased person is not a natural person capable of taking or holding property.

¹⁴ Plaintiffs' attempt to distinguish *Ware* are unavailing; Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 cannot retroactively grant rights to Ms. Monroe any more than the 1950 congressional statute in *Ware* could retroactively grant statutory election rights to American Indians.

8 "No matter what the provisions of the will are when probated, it confers no
9 rights in property not owned by the testator at the time of her death." *Conlee v.*
10 *Conlee*, 269 N.W. 259, 263 (Iowa 1936). A person cannot "make a post-mortem
11 distribution of property which at the time of his death he does not own or in which he
12 has no right, legal or equitable." *In re estate of Braman*, 258 A.2d 492,494 (Pa.
13 1969). A testator may not "validly dispose of non-existent property." *In re Buzz'a's
14 Estate*, 194 Cal.App.2d 598 (1961)

15 It is beyond debate that Ms. Monroe had no capacity to "take or hold property"
16 in 1985, 22 years after she ceased to enjoy natural life; she was not just "civilly
17 dead," she was also naturally dead. Any property which she would have been entitled
18 to in 1985, assuming Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 granted her a right (and as is shown
19 hereafter, it does not), would have fallen to her familial heirs according to statutory
schemes of disposition and not according to any residuary clause in her will.

20 Ms. Monroe lacked the legal capacity to bequeath property she did not own at
21

22 ¹⁵ Black's goes on to explain:

23 The "civil death" spoken of in the books, is of two kinds: (1) Where
24 there is a total extinction of the civil rights and relations of the party, so
25 that he can neither take nor hold property, and his heirs succeed to his
26 estate in the same manner as if he were really dead, or the estate is
27 forfeited to the crown. (2) Where there is an incapacity to hold property,
28 or to sue in the king's courts, attended with forfeiture of the estate to the
crown. *Id.*

A. Ms. Monroe Did Not Own or Forsee, and Thus Could Not Convey, a Future Personality Right in a RoP created by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1, Created 22 Years after Her Death

A gift or devise to a person or of a right not then in existence creates a future estate. *Rasquin v. Hamersley* (2 Dept. 1912) 152 A.D. 522, *aff'd* 208 N.Y. 630. A future estate is created when the disposition creating it becomes legally effective. "A future interest is contingent, whilst the person in whom, or the event upon which, it is limited to take effect remains uncertain." Cal. Civ. Code § 695. An interest created by will becomes effective upon death of the testator. See EPTL 7-1.14 through 7-1.18. The principle applies equally to personal property. *Tallman v. Tallman*, 3 Misc. 465 (1893).

Mere anticipations and hopes, however, when not coupled with a legal interest, are not deemed to be "expectant estates." *Robinson v. New York Life Ins. & Trust Co.*, 75 Misc. 361 (1911); *See, also, Edwards v. Varick*, 5 Denio 664 (1846); *Ward v. Ward*, 131 F. 946 (C.C.N.Y. 1904), affirmed 145 F. 1023, *cert. den.* 27 S.Ct. 796.

Cal. Civ. Code. §700 provides that a "a mere possibility... is not deemed an interest of any kind."

[A] General residuary clause carries every interest, known or unknown, immediate or remote, unless such interest is clearly excluded. However, these principles do not apply until it has been demonstrated that the

¹⁶ As a throw away argument, Plaintiffs claim that Ms. Monroe might have had a limited post-mortem right of publicity based on her lifetime commercial exploitation with respect to specific products or services and suggesting it might be descendible, referring to *Lugosi v. Universal Pictures*, 25 Cal.3d 813 (1979). Plaintiffs Supplemental Brief 15:fn 8. Prior to 1985, RoP were recognized as drawing their source from rights of privacy and were personal rights which, unlike property rights, did not survive the death of the person involved. If any limited rights survived the death of the personality based on lifetime commercial exploitation with respect to specific products or services, they would have been in the nature of trademark rights, not a survivable, descendible or alienable property rights. J. Thomas McCarthy, The Rights of Publicity and Privacy (2d.ed.2006)

As to after-acquired property, "intention" to convey means that the testator foresaw "the possibility of his becoming possessed of other property." 1 Davids, New York Law of Wills s 566, p. 924.

Since Ms. Monroe could not have "foreseen" the possibility of being possessed of a post mortem RoP 22 years after she died, she could not have had the requisite intention to convey such a property right.¹⁷

B. After-acquired Property Refers to Property Acquired after Execution of the Will and Before Death and Not to Property Ostensibly Acquired after Death

A will is an instrument in which a qualified person legally and intentionally directs the disposition of his or her property, to become effective only at his or her death. It is ambulatory, i.e., ineffective during the testator's life. *See Tennant v. John Tennant Memorial Home*, 167 C. 570, 577 (1914); *In re Grogg Bkrtcy.*, 295 B.R. 297 (C.D.Ill. 1973) ("While the will was probated after the commencement of this suit, it, when probated, spoke as of the death of the testator ... [T]he property, in the eyes of the law, vested in her at the time of the testator's death.")

In the absence of a contrary intent, the will must be interpreted as applying to all property, including after-acquired property owned by him at the date of his death. *Matter of Gernon*, 35 Misc.2d 12 (1962) ("Even though title to the after-acquired property had not passed prior to decedent's death, he had an equitable title in said land

¹⁷ Even if viewed as a future interest, Ms. Monroe's conveyance of a RoP, which came into existence 22 years after her death, would fail under the Rule against Perpetuities. The Rule against Perpetuities measures validity from the time of creation of the future interest, which in this case is the date of her death. *Tallman, supra*. Since the future interest allegedly created by §3344.1 did not come into being within a life in being and 21 years, such an conveyance would violate the Rule.

1 which is equivalent to an interest in real property (Citation omitted) and can be
2 devised."); *In re Chickerell's Estate*, 43 A.D.2d 609 (1972) (After-acquired property is
3 acquired after execution of the will and *before death*.)

4 New York law provides: "Unless the will provides otherwise, a disposition by
5 the testator of all his property passes all of the property he was entitled to dispose of
6 at the time of his death." N.Y.E.P.T.L. § 3-3.1. California law was similar in repealed
7 Ca. Probate Code § 121: "Any estate, right, or interest in lands acquired by the
8 testator after the making of his will, passes thereby and in like manner as if title
9 thereto was vested in him at the time of making the will, unless the contrary
10 manifestly appears by the will to have been the intention of the testator."¹⁸

11 Plaintiffs contend, without citation to any authority, that property can be
12 lawfully acquired by a testator after death. They try to distinguish and discredit the
13 case cited by the Court, *In re Estate of Braman*, *supra*. However, even Plaintiffs'
14 admit that, *Braman* correctly construed means that Ms. Monroe did not have even an
15 expectancy of a 1985 created RoP in 1962. Plaintiffs argue that "there is no logical,
16 statutory, or policy reason here why Marilyn Monroe's publicity rights should fall to
17 intestacy, rather than passing through her will during probate." Plaintiffs'
18 Supplemental Brief 7:27-8:2. Plaintiffs are wrong; Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 was
19 explicitly passed to benefit the families of deceased personalities where those
20 personalities have predeceased the statute's enactment not the legatees of a deceased
21 personality. Applying the rule of *Braman* effects the objectives of Cal.Civ.Code
22 §3344.1. Even under the cases cited by Plaintiffs, *In re Albert*, 445 N.Y.S.2d 359

23

24 ¹⁸ The statutes governing wills, Cal. Prob. C. §6100 et seq., apply to cases
25 where the testator died on or after January 1, 1985; prior law applies where the
26 testator died before January 1, 1985. Cal. Prob. C. §6103. Current Cal. Prob. C. §
27 21105. *Transfer of property by will; after-acquired property* "Except as otherwise
28 provided in Sections 641 and 642, a will passes all property the testator owns at
death, including property acquired after execution of the will."

5 Plaintiffs claim that their submissions in New York probate proceedings
6 reflected and confirm their ownership of valid RoP in Marilyn Monroe's likeness and
7 name, and their earnings therefrom. Nothing could be further from the truth.
8 Plaintiffs never disclosed, or had assessed for tax purposes, their claimed RoP. No
9 asset statement filed with the court reflects Ms. Monroe's RoP asset and the Tax
10 Assessor's final accounting does not show either the asset or any associated tax. One
11 would think that an asset generating over \$16 million dollars during the period of
12 probate would have triggered a probate tax that the State of New York and the
13 Federal Government would have been interested in; instead, Plaintiffs led the
14 authorities to believe that the income was from licensing associated with Ms.
15 Monroe's movie projects.

16 Similarly Plaintiffs' argument their historical licensing income from RoP
17 shows that they own the RoP as an "after-acquired" property during probate. Rents,
18 royalties, profits, interest, dividends and even license fees paid into an estate after the
19 testator's death are not "after-acquired" property; they are simply accumulations from
20 assets already owned by the testator at time of death. Revenues from Ms. Monroe's
21 movie projects are incident to her property owned at death but Marilyn Monroe did
22 not own a post-mortem right of publicity when she died and any license fees extracted
23 from third parties through threats of suit asserting such non-existent rights are not
24 lawfully acquired by the estate. Plaintiffs' suggestion that the New York Surrogate's
25 Court's orders permitting distribution of unlawfully extorted license fees somehow
26 legitimizes them and the rights asserted to obtain them is without legal, factual or
27 common sense support. There is no evidence the New York Surrogate Court ever

C. Even If Ms. Monroe Is Deemed to Have Been Granted a RoP by
Cal. Civ. Code § 3344, the Anti-Lapse Statute Vests the Property in
Her Familial Heirs

Under the rule of Lapse, if a devisee predeceased the testator, the bequest fails.

In re Sullivan's Estate, 31 Cal. App. 2d 527 (1939); *Bassett V. Salter*, 25 N.Y.S.2d 176 (1940)(Devising to predeceased persons was “a futile thing, for the fact that the devisees were already dead would have caused the devise to lapse.”) California and New York anti-lapse statutes provide that if a bequest is made to a person who predeceases the testator, the bequest does not lapse but returns to the testator’s residuary estate if so specified; otherwise the bequest passes to the devisee’s heirs at law. *Estate of Haskell J. Dye*, 92 Cal.App.4th 966 (2001); *In the Matter of the Estate of Ida Goldberg*, 36 A.D.2d 631 (1971).

If the grant of a property right by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 is viewed as a bequest, it fails in conveying such a right to Ms. Monroe, who died 22 years earlier, it would pass under the Anti-lapse statute to her heirs at law, if any survived her. None did, and so the bequest lapses altogether.¹⁹

If the grant of a property right by Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 is viewed as a statutory grant, Cal.Probate Code § 21114 provides that statutory transfers to designated persons, including a transferor, vest in the heirs of that person if she predeceases the grant.

Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 includes a vesting provision, similar to the anti-lapse statute and Cal.Probate Code § 21114, setting forth that only familial heirs of deceased persons receive the RoP. Plaintiffs are not among the class of heirs who

¹⁹ Marilyn Monroe was survived by her mother and a half sister; she had no children. However, both her mother and half sister died before the effective date of Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1, and neither left any known heirs.

2 Plaintiffs are not kindred to Ms. Monroe and she did not provide that her
3 bequests to the residuary beneficiaries would run to their estates.

4

5 **IV. EVEN IF MS. MONROE DIED A CALIFORNIA DOMICILIARY, CAL.
6 CIV. CODE §3344.1 DID NOT VEST ANY RIGHTS IN HER AND THE
7 STATUTE HAS NO RETROACTIVE EFFECT**

8

9 **A. The Structure of California's Statute 3344.1 Shows That No Rights
10 Were Conveyed to Persons Already Deceased as of the
11 Implementation Date of That Section**12 California's Civ. Code §3344.1 grants, to any person injured as a result thereof,
13 a "right" to recover for uses of a deceased persons' indicia of persona, made in
14 California without consent of persons identified by subdivision (c). Cal. Civ. Code
15 3344.1(a), (n). Being deceased, Ms. Monroe could never be the "person injured" by
16 use of her persona and she cannot sue to recover for uses under §3344.1(a); she thus
17 was not granted any rights under subdivision (a).18 Subdivision (c) identifies the persons from whom permission is required. They
19 are the persons to whom a transfer was made **before death** by the deceased person
20 (subdivision (b)- by transfer) or the deceased person's transferees (subdivision (b)- by
21 transfer or testamentary act), or **after death of the deceased person** by the familial
22 heirs of the deceased person identified in subdivision (d), if no transfer was made by
23 the deceased person while living.24 A testamentary transfer has no effect until death and so a deceased person can
25 never make a transfer **before death** by testamentary transfer. *Tennant v. John Tennant*
26 *Memorial Home*, 167 Cal. 570, 577 (1914). Subdivision (b) allows a deceased

27

28

²⁰ The "right" recognized by the Indiana RoP statute, the right to sue, if received by her estate, and not lapsed by her predeceased status, then it would have been transferred by the laws of intestate succession of New York, the state which administered her property. (§32-36-1-16) Plaintiffs are not among the class of persons entitled to participate in intestate succession from Ms. Monroe.

7 Subdivision (e) provides that "the rights set forth in subdivision (a) shall
8 terminate" if not transferred by the deceased person and the deceased person is
9 predeceased by all familial heirs.

10 Subdivision (h) defines deceased personalities as those who died after January
11 1, 1915, but as shown herein, such predeceased persons obtained no rights to sue or
12 transfer any right of publicity; their heirs under subdivision (d) were vested with such

13 ²¹ The Court mistakenly suggested in the Tentative Order of December 11, 2006
14 that a deceased personality could transfer the RoP "on or before death." Order at pg.
15 16. §3344.1(b) provides in its first clause that the RoP recognized are property
16 rights. The second clause indicates they are transferable; the third clause indicates
17 the rights are divisible; the fourth clause identifies permissible means of transfer; the
18 fifth clause identifies who may make a transfer *before death* of the deceased
19 personality; and the penultimate clause of §3344.1(b) identifies who may transfer the
20 RoP *after the death* of the deceased personality. No provision of §3344.1(b)
21 provides for transfer by the deceased personality *on death* by testamentary
22 documents.

23 ²² Plaintiffs' contention that the RoP only pass by Subdivision (d) if the
24 deceased personality "did not otherwise provide for their transfer by contract, trust or
25 testamentary documents before death" is incorrect. As shown above, the deceased
26 personality could not transfer by testamentary documents because such transfer would
27 not take effect *before death* of the deceased personality, and no transfer by contract
28 or trust could have been made by personalities who predeceased the effective date of
the statute because *they would have had no legal or equitable interest to transfer*.
Moreover, the statute recognizes that the right is divisible; if only a portion was
contracted away by a deceased personality who acquired such right before dying and
after the effective date of the statute, the untransferred balance would pass by
Subdivision (d).

rights. As the legislatively history unequivocally establishes, the statute was drafted to benefit the heirs of predeceased persons.

No part of §3344.1 vests any right in a deceased person, other than the right of alienability by contract provided by §3344.1(b).²³ No claim is made that Ms. Monroe contracted away her post-mortem RoP while she was alive. Certainly, Plaintiffs do not claim they acquired her post-mortem RoP by contract.

Testamentary disposition was available only to contractual transferees of deceased personalities alive on January 1, 1985 or thereafter, and the heirs of predeceased personalities who took under subdivision (d).²⁴

The Legislative History of §3344.1 confirms that the statute was passed *for the benefit of the heirs of deceased personalities*, not for the deceased personalities themselves.²⁵ A letter dated August 31, 1984 to Governor Deukmejian from the author of the bill, Senator William Campbell requesting his signature on the bill stated:

Senate Bill 613 will take existing rights of publicity enjoyed by living celebrities under current law, and *extend them to their heirs for a period of 50 years beyond the death of the celebrity. I think it is very important that this right is given to heirs....* I believe that the heirs of a celebrity should be entitled to protect against offensive merchandising of their relatives' likeness or name. [Emphasis added]

²³ Defendants have previously shown that the Indiana ROP statute does not have a provision granting or vesting a property right in all "personalities"; it merely creates a right of action (a chose-in-action) for violations of such a right, if it exists. By contrast, § 201 of the Copyright Act establishes that "Copyright in a work protected under this title vests initially in the author or authors of the work..."; 35 U.S.C. 102 provides: "A person shall be entitled to a patent unless..." and California's RoP Statute includes such a vesting provision in 3344.1(b) to heirs of a deceased personality.

²⁴ California's legislature was aware of the fact that extending retroactive application to its RoP statute would violate due process and expressly avoided that pitfall. See, Decl. of Surjit P. Soni, Exh. 34.

²⁵ The Legislative History of Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 was previously submitted by Defendants as Exhibit 34 to the Declaration of Surjit P. Soni.

1 The June 18, 1984 Assembly Committee on the Judiciary minutes confirm the intent
2 to confer these rights upon heirs of the deceased personality and that the deceased
3 personality *can only transfer the right inter vivos* and not by testamentary act,
4 vesting automatically in specified familial heirs. The August 15, 1983 minutes
5 include Staff Comments which also confirm that legislative intent:

6 Under his bill, a person's right of publicity would be transferred to his
7 surviving spouse and children or grandchildren upon his death, *absent a*
contract entered into during his lifetime.

8 Consequently, any right created by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 would have vested
9 in any of Ms. Monroe's familial heirs who survived her. Ms. Monroe had no children
10 and her mother died of congestive heart failure on March 11, 1984, at a nursing home,
11 before the California statute invested the rights to sue and recover damages for use of
12 Ms. Monroe's persona upon her. The rights therefore terminated. §3344.1(e).

13 B. California's Statute 3344.1 Has No Retroactive Effect

14 The estate of an testator vests in the heirs or devisees at the time of the
15 testator's death (Cal.Prob.Code. §7000), and the Legislature cannot divest it by the
16 retroactive application of any subsequent law. *Estate of Wellings*, 197 C. 189, 195
17 (1925);*In re Moynahan's Estate*, 158 Misc. 821 (1936) ("It is also beyond the
18 province of the Legislature where property is vested by intestacy in one class of
19 persons to attempt to divest their property rights and to substitute a different class.")

20 It is an accepted rule of statutory construction that, absent a clear indication to
21 the contrary, a statute operates prospectively only. See *People v. Hayes*, 49 Cal.3d
22 1260, 1274 (1989) (New statutes are "presumed to operate prospectively absent an
23 express declaration of retroactivity or a clear and compelling implication that the
24 Legislature intended otherwise.") Moreover, statutes that are substantive in nature,
25 rather than procedural, may not be applied retroactively. *Wright v. City of Morro Bay*,
26 144 Cal.App.4th 767 (2006).

27 The language of Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1(b) supports the prospective-only effect

1 of that subsection. *Chapman v. City of Garden Grove*, 165 Cal. App. 2d 794, 804-
2 805 (1959). The verbs used in subsection (b) namely, "are," "occurs," and "vest,"
3 are in the present tense. The verbs of the other subsections of §3344.1 are also in the
4 present tense except in subsection (c) which verbs in the present perfect tense
5 (namely, "has been transferred" and "has occurred"). Even statutory verbs in the
6 present perfect tense are ambiguous regarding retroactivity or prospectivity and thus
7 support prospective-only application due to the presumption against retroactivity.
8 *DiGenova v. State Board of Education*, 57 Cal. 2d 167, 175 (1962) (the statutory
9 words "has been convicted" "can as readily be understood either as 'has been
10 convicted after the effective date of the act' or as 'has been convicted before or after
11 the effective date of the act.'"); *accord Gutierrez v. De Lara*, 188 Cal. App. 3d 1575,
12 1580 (1987).

13 Plaintiffs argue in Section III of their supplemental brief against the Court's
14 ruling in the December 11 Order, that §3344.1 (b) grants to persons who died before
15 January 1, 1985, the right to pass the post-mortem RoP by testamentary disposition.
16 Plaintiffs' argument completely ignores the "long ... established" rule of statutory
17 construction in California that "[a] statute may be applied retroactively only if it
18 contains **express language of retroactivity** or if other sources provide a **clear and**
19 **unavoidable implication** that the Legislature intended retroactive application."
20 (italics in original, emphasis in bold added) *McClung v. Employment Development*
21 *Dept.*, 34 Cal.4th 467, 475 (2004) As explained in *McClung*:

22 A statute has retrospective effect when it substantially changes the legal
23 consequences of past events." [Citation.] In this case, applying the
24 amendment to impose liability that did not otherwise exist would be a
retroactive application because it would "attach[] new legal
consequences to events completed before its enactment.

25 *Accord, Californians for Disability Rights v. Mervyn's, LLC*, 39 Cal. 4th 223, 231
26 (2006) (A statute is applied retroactively when the construction sought "change[s] the
27 legal consequences of past conduct by imposing new or different liabilities based

1 upon such conduct"). Plaintiff's statutory construction would be a retroactive
2 application of subdivision (b) because the "legal consequences" of Marilyn Monroe's
3 1962 residuary clause would be "changed." Moreover, the "past conduct" governed
4 by subdivision (b) is the alienability of Marilyn Monroe's post-mortem right of
5 publicity in 1962, the very issue in controversy here. *Tapia v Superior Court*, 53 Cal.
6 3d 282, 291 (1991) (explaining the holding of *People v. Hayes, supra*). As the
7 *McClung* court so aptly stated: "The amended statute defines the law for the future,
8 but it cannot define the law for the past." *McClung*, 34 Cal.4th 473-474; see, also
9 *Armijo v. Milesy*, 127 Cal.App.4th 1405, 1411-1412 (2005) ("Our state's high court has
10 long held that the retroactive application of a statute may be unconstitutional if it
11 deprives an individual of a vested right without due process of law.") There is thus
12 no application in subdivision (b) to testamentary dispositions of deceased persons
13 who died before the effective date, January 1, 1985.

14 The Court in *Wright, supra*, held that the conclusive presumption (that a
15 proposal to dedicate real property for public improvement was not accepted if certain
16 conditions were satisfied) provided by statute which could not be applied to a
17 dedication formally accepted by the City 20 years before its enactment. *Wright*, 144
18 Cal.App.4th at 770-772. So to, the enactment of §3344.1, 22 years after Ms.
19 Monroe's death, could not retrospectively grant her substantive rights to alienate
20 property that had no legal existence for over 2 decades.

21 In *In re Cooper's Estate*, 73 Misc.2d 904 (1973), the New York Surrogate's
22 Court considered the applicability of a new statute addressing the disposition of
23 renounced bequests. The bequests passed after execution of the will and before the
24 death of the testator but were renounced after his death. The Court held that the new
25 statute could apply retroactively to wills executed before the effective date of the
26 statute but not if the testator had died before the statute's effective date. Quoting
27 *Estate of Miriam S. Schloessinger, Deceased*, 70 Misc.2d 206 (1972), it held:

The text of the statute contains no specification as to its applicability to wills drawn before or after the statute's effective date and neither does the statute make reference to the date of death of the testator. *Were the statute to operate retrospectively upon the estates of persons who had died prior to the statute's effective date, a question of unconstitutional deprivation of property rights could arise inasmuch as upon the death of a testator persons benefiting under his will acquire property rights which are immune from legislative attack even though such rights be merely contingent in character.* [Emphasis added]

In re Cooper's Estate, 73 Misc.2d at 905-906. The rights of persons having an interest in an estate are fixed as of the date of death, and statutes "governing decedents' estates generally are not given a retrospective operation." *In re Estate of Uhl*, 33 A.D.3d 181 (2006)(citing, *Matter of Best*, 66 N.Y.2d 151, 157); See also, *Smith*, 118 Misc.2d at 170-172); *Dodin v. Dodin et al.*, 17 Misc. 35 (1896)(A law which changed the laws of succession to personal or real property would be applicable to persons living at the time of its enactment, as well as to those who came into being thereafter only.)

Kudelko v. Dalessio, --- N.Y.S.2d ----, 2006 WL 3490969 (2006) held, in considering the applicability of a new statute creating a cause of action for Identity Theft that:

In general, when a statute creates a right of action where one did not previously exist, such a statute has only a prospective application; likewise, a law that attempts to retroactively create a liability in relation to a transaction where no liability previously existed is often found unconstitutional.

See also, Logan v. Salvation Army, 10 Misc.3d 756 (2005)(“Where a new right of action is created, as here [to add the sexual orientation discrimination provision], the presumption is that it is prospective, not retroactive, unless there is clearly a contrary legislative intent.”)

Plaintiffs argue that "this Court and devisees of deceased personalities who died before January 1, 1985 have applied the California statute [retroactively] in practice." Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief at 3:2-15. Unlawful actions by others do not legitimize Plaintiffs' claims in this case.

Plaintiffs cite to *Miller v. Glenn Miller Productions, Inc.* 318 F.Supp.2d 923 (C.D.Cal.2004), *aff'd* 454 F.3d 975 (9th Cir.2006), as proof that §3344.1 should be applied retroactively. That case however never considered, mentioned nor discussed §3344.1, as even Plaintiffs admit, or whether Glenn Miller had an extant right of publicity capable of being licensed when it held the "1956 agreement is susceptible to only one reasonable interpretation—that it conveys both a trademark license and a license of Glenn Miller's publicity rights." That case turned on its own unique facts and its result is sustainable even without a valid right of publicity at the time of license because, as the 9th Circuit noted, rights to use trademarks, copyrights and orchestral materials was sufficiently conveyed by the license. Furthermore, even under a right of publicity analysis, while no right of publicity existed in 1944 when Glenn Miller died, or in 1956 when the license was issued, the right to object to uses by defendants in that case vested in the familial heirs of Glenn Miller effective January 1, 1985, which were his wife and children. However, those very heirs had ratified defendants' right to use Glenn Miller's name and likeness in 1970, as apart of a settlement. Ultimately, the District Court's ruling, affirmed on appeal, turned on Plaintiffs' laches in asserting their claims.

Finally, even if Plaintiffs are correct and §3344.1 conferred a right of alienability upon Ms. Monroe 22 years after her death, Plaintiffs cannot take under the residuary clause of her will. Cal. Prob. C. §21114 provides:

If a statute or an instrument provides for transfer of a present or future interest to, or creates a present or future interest in, a designated person's "heirs," "heirs at law," "next of kin," "relatives," or "family," or words of similar import, the transfer is to the persons who would succeed to the designated person's intestate estate if the designated person died when the transfer is to take effect in enjoyment. For this purpose, the intestate estate is determined by the intestate succession law of the transferor's domicile.

The section requires that statutory interests created and granted to a "designated person" must pass to that person's intestate heirs if the "designated person" is dead when the interest is to take effect in enjoyment. By Plaintiffs' construction of

1 §3344.1, Ms. Monroe was to receive the benefits of the section's statutory right of
2 alienability on January 1, 1985. Since she was dead on that date, the date of
3 enjoyment of the right created, §21-14 requires that the right pass to her intestate
4 estate. Plaintiffs are not entitled to take any interest by testacy or intestacy.

5

6 **V. PLAINTIFFS' RoP CLAIMS ALSO FAIL BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT**
7 **PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF TITLE**
8 **RUNNING TO THEM**

9 As the Court noted in Footnote 24 of its Tentative Order dated December 11,
10 2006, Plaintiffs have not adduced sufficient evidence to raise a triable issue
11 respecting Anna Strasberg's transfer of her purported interest in Marilyn Monroe's
12 right of publicity to MMLLC.²⁶ That failure persists even with the additional
13 declarations and documents submitted by Plaintiffs.²⁷

14 As the Court noted in its Tentative Order, the Assignment of Member's
15 Interest-Ms. Monroe LLC (Exh. B to the Decl. of Anna Strasberg), reveals that it is an
16 assignment **to the Members**, Anna Strasberg and the Anna Freud Centre, of an
17 interest in the LLC, i.e. establishing ownership shares of MMLLC, **not an**
18 **assignment from the Members** to MMLLC of any RoP in the persona of Ms.
19 Monroe. There is no documentary evidence of any transfer by Anna Strasberg and the
20

21 ²⁶ Plaintiffs' claim that MMLLC has title to the RoP in Ms. Monroe and
22 standing by virtue of 3 separate transfers: (1) the rights which allegedly passed to Lee
23 Strasberg from the Will of Ms. Monroe; (2) the rights which allegedly passed to Anna
24 Strasberg after the death of Lee Strasberg; and (3) the assignment of rights to
25 MMLLC from Anna Strasberg and the Anna Freud Centre in 2001. See Opposition at
36:1-17.

26 ²⁷ The Supplemental Decl. of Anna Strasberg and the documents she seeks to
27 introduce are untimely and still do not meet the requirements of admissible evidence
under Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 56(e). See, Objections to Supplemental Decl. of Anna
28 Strasberg filed concurrently.

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3 Estate of Ms. Monroe of the RoP to Lee Strasberg, or his estate as substitute
4 beneficiary, or to Anna strasberg as beneficiary of Lee Strasberg's estate.²⁹ There is
5 no evidence of any transfer of the interests of Marianne Kris to the Anna Freud
6 Centre or from the Anna Freud Centre to MMLLC. Ms. Strasberg's declaration is
7 incompetent to establish these facts.

8 Plaintiffs have failed to meet their evidentiary burden of establishing that
9 MMLLC has standing to assert a ROP claim.³⁰ Plaintiffs have failed to produce any
10 admissible evidence to convince a reasonable juror that they own RoP. Summary
11 judgment must be granted to Defendants. *In re Brazier Forest Products, Inc.*, 921
12 F.2d 221, 223 (9th Cir. 1990); *Tokio Marine & Fire Inc. Co., Ltd. v. Kaisha*, 25 F.
13 Supp. 2d 1071, 1077 (C.D. Cal. 1997). Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(e); *Anderson v. Liberty*
14 *Lobby*, 477 U.S. 242, 252 (1986).

15 VI. CONCLUSION

16 Defendants motion for summary judgment should be granted in its entirety.

17 21 ²⁸ Even if Ms. Strasberg could testify to a parol assignment of her interests to
18 MMLLC, she is not competent to testify to a parol assignment of rights from the
19 Anna Freud Centre. F.R.E. 602, 701, 702.

20 22 ²⁹ Although Mrs. Strasberg has now belatedly produced a Surrogate Court
23 Order permitting transfer of the Estate's Intellectual Property Rights, such as they
24 may be, to the LLC, no evidence is provided that any such transfer ever took place.

25 26 ³⁰ The California's Secretary of State Successor-in-interest database shows
27 competing and conflicting claims to ownership of the persona of Ms. Monroe which
28 have neither been removed, nor extinguished. See, Decl. of Surjit P. Soni, Exh. 33
and Request for Judicial Notice.

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7 By:

8 Surjit P. Soni
9 M. Danton Richardson
10 Leo E. Lundberg, Jr
11 Mark L. Sutton

12 Attorneys for Defendants/Cross Complainants
13 The Milton H. Greene Archives, Inc., and Tom
14 Kelley Studios, Inc.

15 Lydia Bouzaglou-Newcomb
16 LAW OFFICES OF LYDIA BOUZAGLOU-
17 NEWCOMB

18 &
19 R. Lawrence Bragg
20 LAW OFFICES OF DONALD J. DeSHAW
21 &
22 John P. Cogger
23 LAW OFFICES OF BRUCE P. AUSTIN

24 Attorneys for Defendant
25 THE MILTON H. GREENE ARCHIVES, INC.

26 Robin A. Webb,
27 GRANT, GENOVESE ET AL
28 Attorneys for Defendant,
TOM KELLEY STUDIOS, INC.